

Azerbaijan – Georgia – Armenia | Discover The Caucasus

The three countries of the Trans-Caucasus interlock like puzzle pieces on a strip of mountainous land wedged between the Black and Caspian seas. Each shares a border with the other two, yet they could hardly be more different .

- Three countries, one Mountain area, still different cultures
- CityTour of Baku & Tbilisi
- Hike up the impressiv Gergeti Trinity Church
- Wine Tasting at the Tsinandali Family Estate

Day - 1 Baku

BAKU ARRIVAL Welcome to Baku. After check-in into your hotel, the rest of the day is free at leisure.

Overnight: Baku

Day - 2 Baku

BAKU: CITYTOUR & ABSHERON PENINSULA (B, L)

Take a CityTour in the morning and discover the capital city of Azerbaijan. Start with Shirvanshas' Palace. The complex contains the main building of the palace, Divanhane, the burial vaults, the shah's mosque with a minaret, Seyid Yahya Bakuvi's mausoleum, a portal in the east – Murad's gate, a reservoir and the remnants of the bath-house. Continue then to the Maiden Tower, also known as Giz Galasi. Maiden Tower houses a museum, which presents the story of historic evolution of the city. Next, visit the Atesgah, an ancient religious temple of fire worshippers built in the 17th century. Many foreign travellers and historians have described this castle-like place. It is one of the sacred places Zoroastrians (fire worshippers) used to visit and still do during their pilgrimage. Last stop for the morning tour is the new building of the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum which will amaze you with its vast collection of more than 10.000 items. Aside from carpets woven in 17th – 20th centuries, a collection of jewellery, ceramics and old metal works is also a part of the exhibition. Enjoy your lunch, before driving to the Ansheron Peninsula, where you visit the burning mountain “Yanar Dag”, Mardakan Castle and the Raman Castle.

Overnight: Baku

Day - 3 Sheki

BAKU – GOBUSTAN – SHAMAKHI – SHEKI (B, L)

After breakfast, drive to Gobustan, where you visit the National Park. The Rock Art Cultural Landscape is a hill and mountain site occupying the south-east end of the Big Caucasian Ridge. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Continue then to visit the Juma-Mosque of Shamakhi City and the Seven Dorms, a complex of tombs built for Shirvan's royal family in the 18th century.

Overnight: Sheki

Day - 4 Tbilisi

SHEKI – LAGODEKHI BORDER – TBILISI (B, L)

Explore the Sheki Khan's Palace in the morning. Along with its pool and plane trees, the summer residence is the only remaining structure from the larger palatial complex inside the Sheki Khans' Fortress, which once included a winter palace, residences for the Khan's family and servants' quarters. Continue then to the Lagodekhi Border, where you cross over to Georgia. Visit here the Gremi Architectural Complex, which is a 16th-century architectural monument. The complex is what has survived from the once flourishing town of Gremi and is located east of the present-day village of the same name in the Kvareli district.

Overnight: Tbilisi

Day - 5 Tbilisi

TBILISI: CITYTOUR (B, D) During the morning, discover the great city of Tbilisi. Your CityTour includes the Metekhi Church, a good example of cross-domed Georgian Orthodox churches. Resting upon the top of the hill, the church overlooks the oldest part of Tbilisi, offering wonderful views of famous Narikala fortress. The fortress was established in the 4th century as Shuris-tsikhe. Next, visit Abanotubani at the foot of Narikala fortress. This place is where king Vakhtang Gorgasali discovered warm springs and subsequently found a new capital 'Tbilisi'. Last on your tour is the Anchiskhati Basilica – the oldest surviving Basilica in the city. The afternoon is free at leisure. We recommend a visit of the National Museum of Georgia or the Open Air Ethnographic Museum. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner.

Overnight: Tbilisi

Day - 6 Tbilisi

TBILISI: ROUNDTrip TO WINE REGION KAKHETI (B, L) Your first stop today is the Bodbe Nunnery, one of the major pilgrimage sites in Georgia and the place where St. Nino, the 4th.c female enlightener of Georgians is buried. Continue to Signaghi. The town is famous for its wine and carpet making culture. Enjoy breathtaking views of Kizikhi area and unusual charm of Signaghi – so called 'City of Love' which is surrounded by 18th c. fortified town wall. Discover the special storehouse for harvested grapes and for making wine. Wine is pressed in a 'satsnakheli', a huge wooden vat, in which the family crushes the grapes. After learning so much about wine, visit the Tsinandali Family Estate and wine cellar, which once belonged to the 19th century aristocratic poet Alexander Chavchavadze. After Lunch and your wine tasting, travel back to Tbilisi.

Overnight: Tbilisi

Day - 7 Gudauri

TBILISI – GUDAURI (B, D)

On your way to the Khevi Province, visit Jvari, the 6th century cross-shaped monastery built on the top of a cliff, overlooking the confluence of Aragvi and Mtkvari rivers. At this place St. Nino, enlightener of Georgia, erected a large wooden cross on the site of a pagan temple. Next, visit Svetitskhoveli, the fortified cathedral dating from 11th century. Svetitskhoveli is a sacred place, where the Robe of Christ is buried. Continue your journey along the Georgian Military Highway towards the Ananuri Architectural complex. The former residence of Dukes of Aragvi region, beautifully overlooking Jinvali reservoir includes churches and towers dating back to the 15-17th cc.

Overnight: Gudauri

Day - 8 Gudauri

GUDAURI: EXPLORE THE GREATER CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS (B, D) After a short drive to Stepantsminda, start your half day hiking tour to the Gergeti Trinity Church. The 14th c. altar and bell tower, situated on the slopes of Mt. Kazbek at 2170 m. is the most important church of Khevi province. The stone decorations represented on the facade of the church help us to understand the ancient rituals and beliefs. The afternoon is free at leisure.

Overnight: Gudauri

Day - 9 Akhaltsikhe

GUDAURI – AKHALTSIKHE (B, L)

Today's trip is to the oldest urban settlement in the Georgia. Uplistsikhe rock-hewn town (1st Millennium BC), which is notable for unique combination of various styles of rock-cut cultures and the co-existence of pagan and Christian architecture. Here you can see ancient wine presses carved in stone. Continue after lunch to Stalin's Museum and the house, where Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union, was born. Before you reach your final destination for today, visit the Borjomi Park and taste the famous Borjomi mineral water.

Overnight: Akhaltsikhe

Day - 10 Yerevan

AKHALTSIKHE – VARDZIA – YEREVAN (B, D)

Discover the Vardzia Cave Complex in the morning. It was founded in the 12th-13th cc. during the reign of Giorgi III and Queen Tamar. The complex became a well fortified monastery, which had a significant role in the political, cultural, educational and spiritual life of Georgia. Continue with a photo stop at the Khertvisi Fortress, before you arrive in Yerevan and check into your hotel.

Overnight: Yerevan

Day - 11 Yerevan

YEREVAN: ECHMIADZIN (B; L) The morning tour is dedicated to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Echmiadzin Cathedral. It is the centre of the Armenian Church and where the Catholics of all Armenians live, and the location of the Echmiadzin Cathedral. The cathedral, built in 480, is located in a walled compound with gardens and various structures. After lunch, drive back to Yerevan for a CityTour. Thereby, visit the Matenadaran Museum, which means 'repository of manuscripts' in Armenian, is a repository of ancient manuscripts, research institute and museum in the city. Also visit Tsitsernakabert, the memorial complex dedicated to the victims of the Great Armenian Genocide.

Overnight: Yerevan

Day - 12 Yerevan

YEREVAN: GARNI – GEGHARD – KHOR VIRAP (B, L) Visit another UNESCO World Heritage Site on your today's day trip around Yerevan. The Garni Hellenistic Temple was built in the 1st century AD and served as a summer residence for Armenian kings. It is the only pagan temple on the territory of modern Armenia, others were destroyed after the adoption of Christianity. Continue then to visit the Monastery of Geghard which is a unique architectural construction in the Kotayk province of Armenia, being partially carved out of the adjacent mountain, surrounded by cliffs at the entrance to the Azat Valley. Lunch will be served and afterwards, discover Khor-Virap, one of the holiest sites in the whole country. Its location, near the closest point to Mount Ararat within Armenian borders, offers a spectacular view of the mountain, the national symbol of Armenia.

Overnight: Yerevan

Day - 13 Tbilisi

YEREVAN – SEVAN – SADAKHLO – TBILISI (B, L)

In the morning, drive to the Lake Sevan, one of the largest high-altitude lakes in the world. Armenians called it "The Blue Pearl". Followed by a visit of the Monastery, which is located on a peninsula at the north-western shore of Lake Sevan. After the artificial draining of Lake Sevan the water level fell about 20 metres, and the island transformed into a peninsula. According to an inscription in one of the churches, the monastery of Sevanavank was founded in 874. After lunch, drive to Alaverdi and visit the Haghpat Monastery, which is a medieval Armenian monastery complex founded by Queen Khosrovanuysh in 976. Haghpat monastery was placed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 1996.

Overnight: Tbilisi

Day - 14 Tbilisi

TBILISI DEPARTURE (B)

Depending on your flight time, you are transferred to the airport for your flight home or onward journey.

Inclusions

- 13 nights in your chosen accommodation
- Meal as specified in itinerary
(B = Breakfast, BR = Brunch, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Activities and excursions according to itinerary

FOR EXAMPLE:

- CityTour of Baku
 - Visit Gobustan National Park
 - Visit the Sheki Khan's Palace
 - Half Day CityTour of Tbilisi
 - Wine Tasting at the Tsinandali Family Estate
 - Visit Jvari Monastery, Svetitskhoveli Cathedral, Ananuri Architectural complex
 - Hike up to the Gergeti Trinity Church
 - Learn more about Stalin at its birth-house
 - Taste the Borjomi mineral water
 - Visit Echmiadzin - UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - Visit Geghard Monastery - UNESCO World Heritage Site
 - Discover the Lake Sevan with its Monastery
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- Tours and excursions in mini buses/buses
or with public transportation according to itinerary
 - English speaking tour guide
 - Admission fees according to itinerary
 - One bottle of mineral water per person/ per day

Exclusions

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned in itinerary
- Tours and Excursions other than mentioned in itinerary
- Early check-in and late check-out at hotels
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips for driver/guides
- Visa fees

Payment Details:

Group from 6 persons and
more starting from (p.P)

USD 2737

Private tour for 2 persons
starting from (p.P.) USD 2737

Booking Availabilities

Booking in between : **10th November 2019 & 1st March 2022**

Standard Room

Single Supplement	: USD 0.00
Double Room Price(per person)for the 1st + 2nd person	: USD 2737.00
Double Room Price(per person)for the 3rd + 4th person	: USD 2737.00
Double Room Price(per person)for the 5th + 6th person	: USD 2737.00